

**Committee of the Whole Meeting
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology, 1605
Wentworth Ave., Calumet City, IL 60409
MINUTES**



1. Welcome/Roll Call

Vice President Wilson called the committee of the whole meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson **Absent:** Stepp

- 2. Communication/Public Comment**—Tim Sullivan—It is the 1-year anniversary of incorporation of the IFT Local 683 Education Foundation which initially set out to raise funds for TFD215 future teachers and each campus' student fund. Mr. Sullivan also announced the establishment of the Rich Dust Teacher Innovation Fund (as suggested by Barb Dust) in memory of Richard Dust's over 60 years of service to the community and the district in so many capacities. Through the Rich Dust Teacher Innovation Fund D215 teachers will have the opportunity to apply for grants to fund fun and innovative projects to enhance instruction for our students. The foundation is holding its first trivia night fundraiser on March 2, 2024 and all are invited.

3. Buildings Grounds/Safety Committee--Member Townsend

- 3.A. Electrical Vault Relocation at North Campus—Mr. Stephan shared the old original technical vault sits in tunnel and sometimes the area gets seepage the plan is to relocate it. It will be brought to the board in the next couple of months for approval.
- 3.B. Additional Office Space for IT Department—The board approved additional staff for the IT department and office space is needed to keep the team in the same area. The proposed plan is to use part of the superintendent's conference room. The estimated cost is \$138,000 and Ms. Bishop stated we have the funds. It is hoped the bid comes in lower and if the bids come in too high, they can be rejected.
- 3.C. 2024-25 Facility Rental Fees—This annual approval is required by policy and no change in fees is being proposed.
- 3.D. Building Usage Report—An outside organization asked to use TFS football field but they went to North.

4. Finance Committee--Member Jackson

- 4.A. FY24 Property Tax Relief Grant—Ms. Bishop stated the district did receive the grant which requires reducing the levy by that amount. It is a win-win for district and community.
- 4.B. Student Fees 2024-2025 School Year—Ms. Bishop reviewed the fees stating there is no increase except for summer school. The proposal is to put the \$140 summer school fee on account and if the student passes the course, the fee will be removed. This also applies to credit recovery. Driver's ed fees are \$250/student and the district is proposing keeping it at that fee. Discussion included what percentage of students pass summer school and a concern that if students fail, it is a punishment for parents and shouldn't be. Further discussion included it is an incentive for the parents to follow up and oversee their students. Administrators were able to pull data and in the second semester of summer school there were no failures. The issue used to be having several students not attend/drop and administration reached out to them and removed them if not attending.
- 4.C. Permanent Transfer Education Fund and Working Cash Fund to Capital Projects Fund—Ms. Bishop stated the district has to start planning now if doing turf at TFN and to be equitable with the work at South. Through this process, the district should be in good financial position which is projected to be \$6 million. The funds cannot be transferred back once moved to capital funds. She added the minimum of what the district should have on hand is 25% of operating expenses. After completing the transfer, the district would still have about five months cash on hand.
- 4.D. Replacement of 2005 HVAC Rooftop Units—Administration is hoping to get a grant by summer; if don't get it, have to come up with another plan and the project would be spread out over several years.
- 4.E. Audited Services Request for Proposal—Ms. Bishop said this will be put out for bid and is wanting to get a good price.
- 4.F. Special Education Bus Services Bid Process—Ms. Bishop said the contract is up and needs to go out for bid.

5. Curriculum Committee--Member Ballard

- 5.A. Draft 2024-25 School Calendar—Ms. Szuba said it is a draft calendar which was reviewed by the unions and staff. Mr. Robinzine will present it to feeder districts for their input.

6. IT Committee--Member Wilson

- 6.A. District Social Media Accounts Update—Ms. Howard shared each campus is auditing its official social media accounts and making sure they are in compliance with the guidelines as outlined in the activities/athletics handbooks.

7. Behavior Intervention/Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee--Member Newman

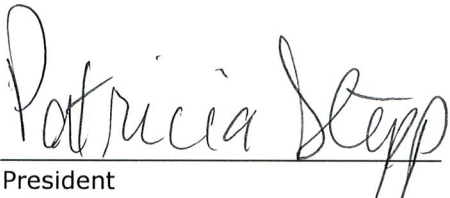
7.A. Draft 2024-25 Student Handbook—Mr. Williams stated the draft handbook was reviewed by the committee comprised of parents, faculty, students and a board member. Each section was reviewed and focus was on student expectations. The language was looked at if it is positive and clear. Discussion included if there are updates to the dress code, developing a more user-friendly format? Overall some members felt it is not serving students and families. Consensus was liking a QR code to access it quickly. It was added that each school holds an assembly to go review the handbook and expectations. The board agreed administration needs to be more proactive in access.

7.B. Discipline Policy/Data Audit Firm—Administration is proposing to do a district review first and if needed going to the organization. Discussion included that every administrator took sections of the handbook to review and give feedback. Added discussion was that some members believe there are things in handbook that are not practiced and that there is value in having someone outside look at handbooks. Members are very concerned about discipline especially at South and implementation of handbook and others added the district shouldn't spend taxpayer money for external review if it is an implementations issue. Consensus was to give the superintendent a chance to review and to develop a plan with recommendations/goals which are tangible and measurable. The plan should include interventions that will impact safety and what can/cannot be done including looking at supervision in the buildings recognizing policies won't stop fights.


8. Adjourn

I move to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

This motion, made by Member Townsend and seconded by Member Terrazas, passed on voice vote.



President



Secretary



Recording Secretary